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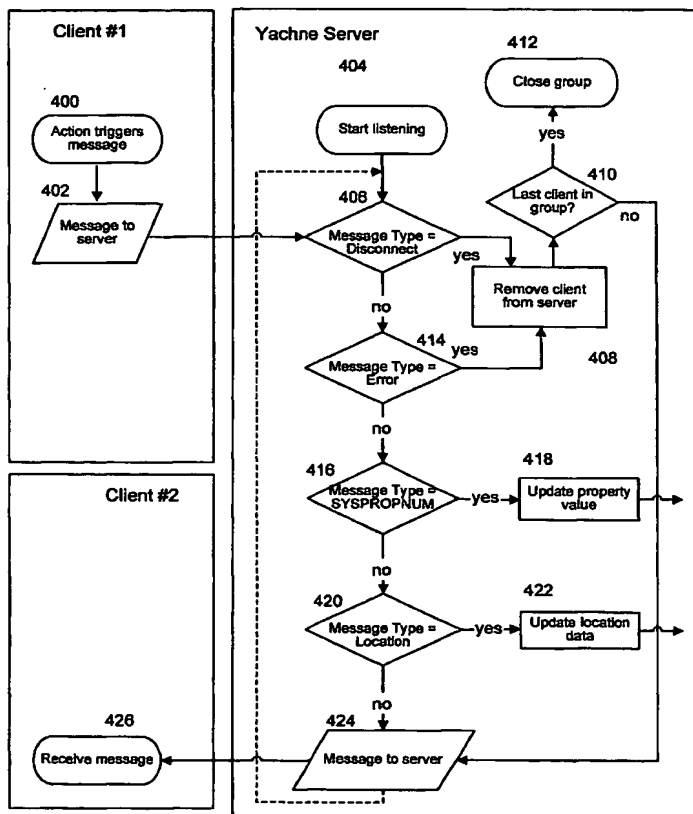
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ENABLING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN USERS SURFING THE SAME WEB PAGE



(57) Abstract: A web page is YACHNEE™ enabled by providing an icon on the page which allows actuation upon being clicked. The user is then able to design a character to represent him on the screen. He also sees characters on screen representing other users, which characters have been designed by the users. A user may move his character all over the screen by dragging it with his mouse and may rotate it towards or away from other characters. The characters may speak to each other, either through a voice communication or typing, in which case the text appears in a bubble (cartoon fashion). A user may change the appearance of a character to reflect an emotion (e.g. anger) and he may invite other characters to a private chat. When a user leaves the web page, the corresponding character disappears from all other users' screens. Communication among users viewing the same web page is facilitated without the need for any program or plug-in other than what is standard in a web browser. Additionally, such features as the automatic generation and de-activation of chat-rooms are possible, which in previous applications are pre-defined and independent of the presence of users.



ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO,
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/19201

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 3/00
US CL : 710/15,5; 709/204; 345/474,473; 704/260,270

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 710/15,5; 709/204; 345/474,473; 704/260,270

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6,370,597 B1 (EADY et al) 09 April 2002 (09.04.2002), Figures 1, and 3, col. 2, lines 46 through col. 3, lines 9, and col. 5, lines 1 through col. 7, lines 6.	1-25
Y,P	US 6,539,354 B1 (SUTTON et al) 25 March 2003 (25.03.2003), Abstract, Figures 2, 10, and 11; col. 3, lines 3 through col. 5, lines 23; and col. 20, lines 12 through col. 21, lines 64.	1-25
Y,P	US 6,466,213 B2 (BICKMORE et al) 15 October 2002 (15.10.2002) Figures 13-15; col. 10, lines 10 through col. 11, lines 45.	1-25
A	US 6,329,994 B1 (GEVER et al) 11 December 2001 (11.12.2001) Figure 15.	1-25

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"&" document member of the same patent family

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